

MEMO FROM
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TO: Dr. Perr

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JUL 14 1970

The arguments for stringent control of firearms seem to me inescapable. I do not favor psychiatric-swearing, but do believe that the underlying motives of those who have hindered such legislation call for careful analysis. (However, I also feel it is pointless to swear at what we regard as social paranoia; we do better to try to think of the therapeutic measures by which we can accomplish constructive change.)

Why guns? I simply could not think of a more apt example; and I try hard to be an anti-escapist, i.e., to project complex and abstract issues back on to the realities of contemporary existence. You may be interested in some other examples of this in the writings enclosed. And of course I was exercised by the traumatic incidents of recent history.

I could have used "dynamite" just as well, or a thousand others.

Perhaps a psychiatric group could make a further contribution by studying and reporting on the foreseeable side-effects (mostly favorable in my view) of gun control legislation. For example, I think your statement might have stressed how the prevalence of guns makes for half accidental, half-intended homicides out of quarrels and angers that might have been self-limited otherwise.

Sincerely,

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